

Ravelin Second Line of Defense
San Juan, Puerto Rico

HABS-PR-51

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Historical American Building Survey
National Park Service
San Juan National Historic Site

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SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE
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Owner: Municipality of San Juan

Date of
Erection: Approximately 1794

Builder: The Corps of Engineers of the Spanish Army.

Present
Condition: The 2nd line of defense consisted of a moat and a wall which ran across the island of San Juan just west of what is now Muñoz Rivera Park. The wall continued along the north shore to the west for 800 yards. A bastion in the shape of a ravelin was located just South of the center part of the Island. The only remains of the second line of defense are the wall remnants at its west end and the ravelin. The remains of the ravelin are in a ruinous condition. All finishes have disintegrated. The walls are badly eroded and the center cores have settled. There are no traces of the original pavement within the ravelin.

Number of
Stories: The area within the ravelin is higher than the surrounding area and approximately 15' above the lowest point of the moat. The height of the breast walls vary between 5' and 6' high.

Materials
of Con-
struction: The walls of the ravelin are constructed from masonry shells and a rubble core. The shells are either tapered or stepped towards the top. The faces are always inclined. The shells are given stiffness by transverse walls at the embrasures and at the corners of the ravelin. All masonry is composed from a faced and coursed field stone, a local sandstone, with brick cornering of the breast wall and brick lining of steps and walking surfaces.

Other
Existing
Records:

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MAPS AND PLANS OF THE SECOND LINE OF DEFENSE
AVAILABLE IN THE NPS LIBRARY

1. Plano Geométrico del Puerto Capital de Puerto Rico, levantado por el Capitán de Navío de la Real Armada, Don Cosme de Churruca. Año de 1794.

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2. Plano Geométrico. El Puerto Capital de Puerto Rico. Construido por los Bergantines de S. M. Descubridor y Vigilante. Año de 1794.
3. Isla de Puerto Rico. Por el Teniente Coronel Capitán de Ingenieros D. Francisco Coello. Año de 1851.
4. Plano de la Plaza de San Juan Bautista de Puerto Rico, hasta la primera línea avanzada... Año 1864.
5. Plano de la zona de la isleta donde se halla asentada la Ciudad de San Juan de Puerto Rico comprendiendo el Caño de San Antonio, ensenada de Miraflores y manglares intermedios. Año 1871. Por Evaristo de Charruca.
6. Plano de la Plaza de San Juan de Puerto Rico, levantado por el Cuerpo de Ingenieros Militares. Año 1887.
7. Plano de la Plaza de San Juan de Puerto Rico y sus alrededores, levantado por el Cuerpo de Ingenieros Militares. Año 1887.
8. Plano de la Ciudad de San Juan de Puerto Rico, y del Yslote en que se halla situada dicha población, 1873. Leonardo de Tejeda (Expediente relating to the widening of the Plaza de San Juan in Puerto Rico in the years 1888 and 1889). NHS-SJ-9271.
9. Plano de la Plaza de San Juan de Puerto Rico, 1872. (Expediente relating to the widening of the Plaza de San Juan in Puerto Rico in the years 1888 and 1889). NHS-SJ-9269.
10. Croquis de los Terrenos comprendidos entre el recinto del frente de tierra y la altura llamada del Olimpo que se pretende ocupar con nuevas obras de fortificación. (Expediente relating to the widening of the Plaza de San Juan in Puerto Rico in the years 1888 and 1889). NHS-SJ-9268.
11. Plano Topográfico de la Bahía de San Juan de Puerto Rico. Antonio Padial y Vizcarrondo. (Expediente relating to the widening of the Plaza de San Juan in Puerto Rico in the years 1888 and 1889). NHS-SJ 9270.

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- 12. Naval chart of San Juan de Puerto Rico. 1898 (NHS-SJ 9765)
- 13. Croquis de la Capital y de los terrenos que pueden ganarse a lo mar. 1877 (Expediente relating to the widening of the Plaza de San Juan in Puerto Rico in the years 1888 and 1889). NHS-SJ 9267.
- 14. Military Reservation of San Juan, Puerto Rico. (O.Q.M.C.) 1915.
- 15. San Juan de Puerto Rico. 1790 (NHS-SJ-9594 A,B)
- 16. Plano de la Plaza de San Juan. 1897 (NHS-SJ-9162B)
- 17. Map of San Juan Island. 1901. (NHS-SJ-9162A)

GENERAL WORKS

- 1. Hoyt, Edward A., A History of the Harbor Defenses of San Juan under Spain, 1509-1898. Prepared by the Puerto Rican Coast Artillery Command, 1943.
- 2. Hostos, Adolfo, Ciudad Murada. Editorial Lex, La Habana, 1948.

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NOTE: "Other Existing Data" prepared by the Historian (Park), San Juan National Historic Site. Other written data prepared by the Architect, San Juan NHS.

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